



## Creating the Future Through an International Understanding of Ethical Leadership

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The Ethical Leadership Commission in the United Kingdom, made up of school leaders, policy makers and other stakeholder groups, has just published its final report, after two years of hearing evidence. Rather than offering a kitemark to promote ethical behaviour, the commission has put forward a framework for ethical leadership, briefly summarised below:

**Selflessness** Acting solely in the interest of children and young people.

**Integrity** Leaders should avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. Before taking decisions, they must resolve openly any perceived conflict of interest and relationships.

**Objectivity** Taking decisions impartially and fairly, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias. Leaders should exercise judgement and analysis for the good of children and young people.

**Accountability** School and college leaders are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

**Openness** School and college leaders should expect to act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from scrutiny unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.

**Honesty** School and college leaders should be truthful.

**Leadership** School and college leaders should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles, and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

The workshop will briefly discuss the key elements of each part of the framework, before concentrating on how this UK based framework can be translated into an international context.

The three central questions for discussion will be:

- a. Can ethical leadership be explored across nations, or is context all?
- b. What might an ICP version of the ethical framework look like?
- c. How can ethical leadership best be promoted?

Ethical leadership is one of three pillars of ICP's strategic plan. As one colleague remarked 'ethical leadership is easy, just do the right thing. The trouble is, how do you know what the right thing is?' The aim of the seminar is to take the next steps in developing a routemap that helps us 'do the right thing' in the interests of the young people that we serve.